

a.) Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated DNA ~~related to IgA nephropathy~~ comprising a nucleotide sequence ~~selected from the nucleotide sequences~~ represented by SEQ ID NO:7 ~~NO:1 to NO:33 and SEQ ID NO:41 to NO:44, or, a DNA which hybridizes~~ with said DNA under stringent conditions.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An isolated DNA ~~according to claim 2,~~ comprising consisting of a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:45 ~~to NO:106~~ or NO:46.

4. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting mRNA of an IgA nephropathy-related gene using the DNA according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claims 1 or 3.

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) A method for inhibiting transcription of an IgA nephropathy-related gene or translation of mRNA of an IgA nephropathy-related gene using the DNA according to claim ~~2~~ or 3.

Claims 7-9 (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) An isolated DNA encoding ~~the~~ a protein according to claim 9 comprising an amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:40.

11. (Original) A recombinant DNA obtained by inserting the DNA according to claim 10 into a vector.

12. (Original) A transformant obtained by introducing the recombinant DNA according to claim 11 into a host cell.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a protein comprising an amino acid sequence ~~selected from the group of amino acid sequences~~ represented by SEQ ID No:34 to NO:40 ~~or a protein comprising an amino acid sequence in which one or several amino acids are deleted, substituted or added in the amino acid sequence of said protein, and having an activity related to IgA nephropathy, comprising:~~

culturing the transformant according to claim 12 in a medium to produce and accumulate said protein in the culture; and

recovering said protein form the resulting culture.

Claims 14-21 (Cancelled).

22. (New) A method for diagnosing IgA nephropathy comprising:

(a) detecting a mRNA corresponding to the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:7 in leukocytes of a subject and healthy person using a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group of nucleotide sequences consisting of SEQ ID NO:7, 45, 46, a nucleotide sequence identical to continuous 5 to 60 residues in a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:7, and a nucleotide sequence complementary to continuous 5 to 60 residues in a nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO:7; and

(b) diagnosing IgA nephropathy in the subject based on an increased level of said mRNA in leukocytes of a subject as compared with those of healthy persons.